

PROCLAMATION HUNGER ACTION MONTH SEPTEMBER 2018

WHEREAS, North Dakota is the top producer in the United States of durum and spring wheat, barley, dry edible beans and peas, flax, canola, honey and other crops, and has the lowest food hardship rate among the states, yet in 2017, 97,170 people, nearly half of whom were children and seniors, sought food assistance from the Great Plains Food Bank and its charitable feeding network partners; and

WHEREAS, adequate food is necessary for the health, well-being and education of individuals of all ages, and access to adequate healthful food assures people's abilities to be productive citizens on Main Streets, rural roads and farmstead drives; and

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity affect even the least likely of individuals, including adults who are caring for family members, children of hardworking parents and seniors living on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, partners of the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition are working to identify and address unmet food and hunger needs, enhance the understanding and awareness of hunger issues, and identify and address solutions to meet immediate needs and underlying causes of hunger; and

WHEREAS, farmers and growers, food shelves, soup kitchens, the North Dakota food bank, emergency shelters, senior meals programs, children's and women's advocacy groups, schools, child care providers, businesses, state, local and federal government, legislators, health providers, statewide coalitions, faith-based organizations, concerned youth and dedicated individuals are working to end hunger in North Dakota.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 2018, **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgu

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State